(b) if so, the number of meetings held after May 18, 1988 between the two countries and to what extent the differences have been narrowed down ; and

(c) whether any concrete formulae have been reached for a settlement ; if not, at what stage the matter rests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Eight rounds of official-level talks have been held so far between India and China to discuss subjects of mutual concern, including the boundary question.

(b) No official talks have been held to discuss the boundary question since the Eights Round of November, 1987.

(c) Both India and China are agreed that a settlement of the boundary question should be arrived at through peaceful negotiations and that, meanwhile, Peace and tranquility should be maintained all along the border.

Indo-Pak talks on Afghan Situation

4465. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan made efforts in dispelling misunderstanding of each other's perceptions towards a solution in the Afghan problem ;

(b) is so, whether Pakistan and Indian delegations met at Islamabad during May, 1988 ; and

(c) if so, to what extent India's efforts to dispel Pak fears and misunderstanding had been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While Pakistani leaders have said they could understand Indian concerns, they have also been critical of India's policy.

Government Employees sent for Training Abroad

4466. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the number of Government employees of various Ministries/Departments as well as autonomos body organisations, who were sent abroad for training purposes and were in the age-group of (i) 31-40; (ii) 41-50; and (iii) 51-60 (age-group-wise and office-wise) ; and what was the amounts spent as on 31st March, 1988 on this account;

(b) whether Government are aware that in majority of cases the employees sent were above 50 years and even after training they serve not more than five to six years ; if so, what are the reasons that the Government do not send employees for training from the age group of 31-40 in the first instance and then from the age group of 41-50 only, who can serve the Government for more than 10 to 15 years after such training ; and

(c) whether Government propose to encourage the age groups of 31-40 and 41-50 in this respect in the near future and put a ban on age group 51-60 for the said purpose of training abroad ; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The information sought is not centrally